



La Crosse Area
Family Collaborative
Empowered Families. Thriving Neighborhoods.

LA CROSSE AREA FAMILY COLLABORATIVE

Presentation for Wisconsin Legislative Children's Caucus

February 7th, 2018

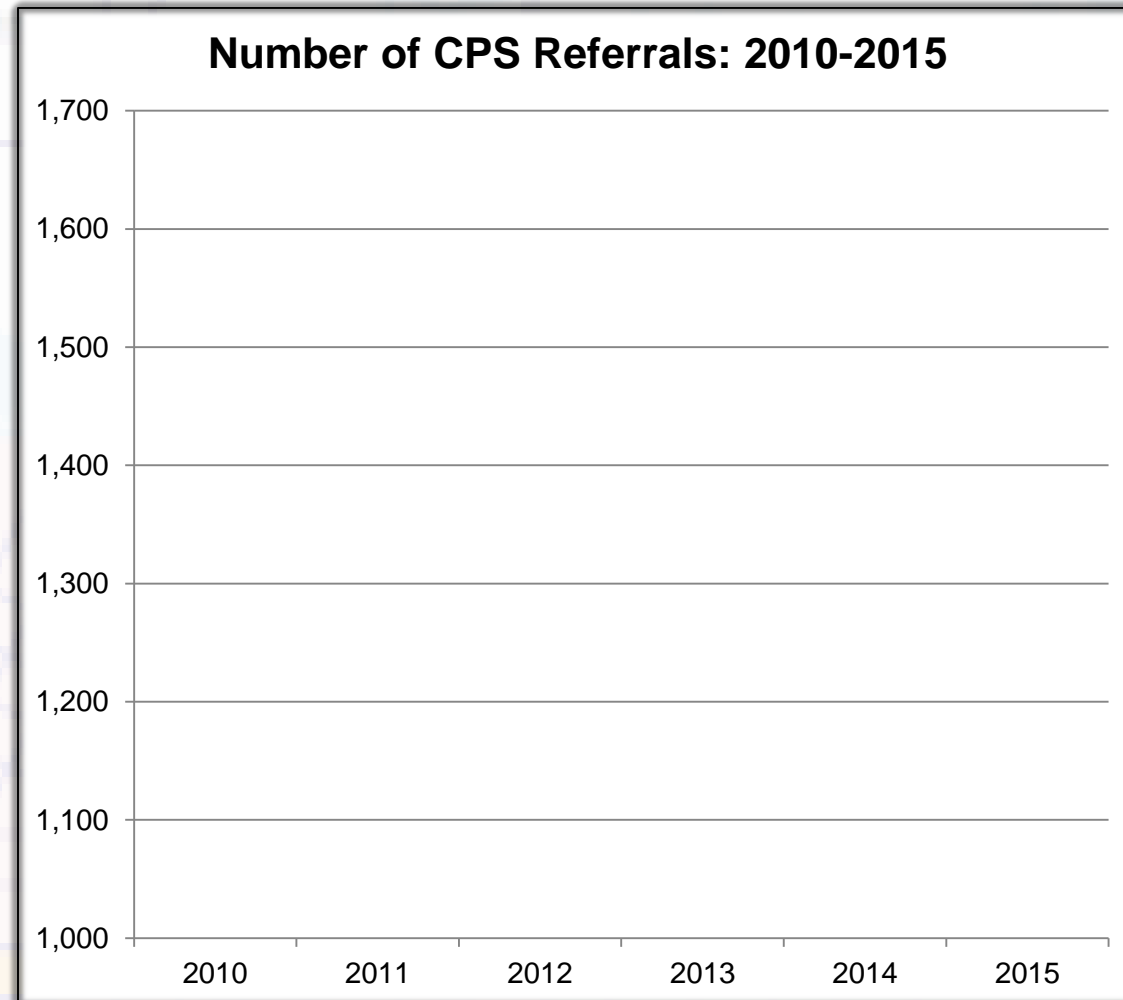


Why Our Community Created LAFC

Community Collaboration Required to Address Community Needs

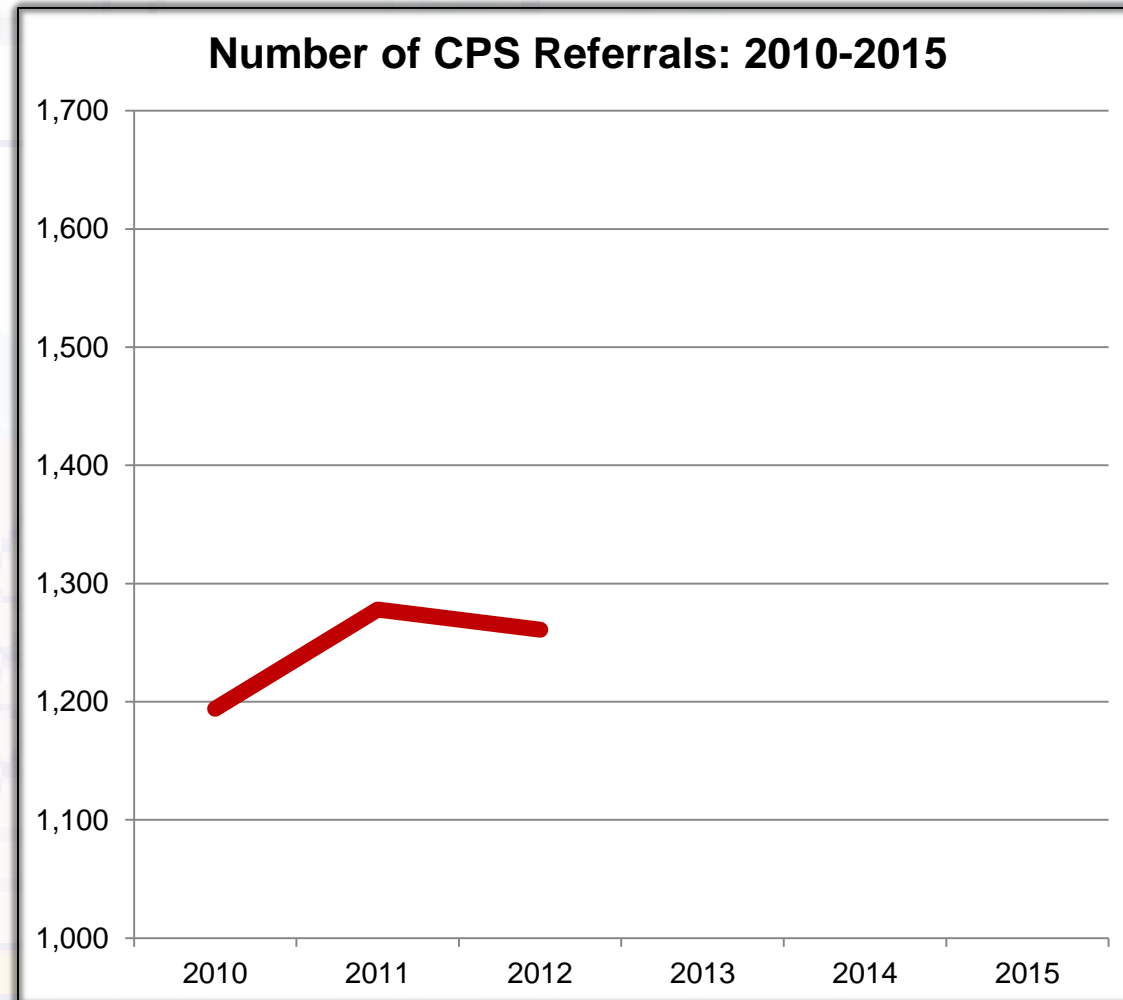
THE URGENCY TO ACT: **FAMILY STABILITY**

A rise in child safety issues



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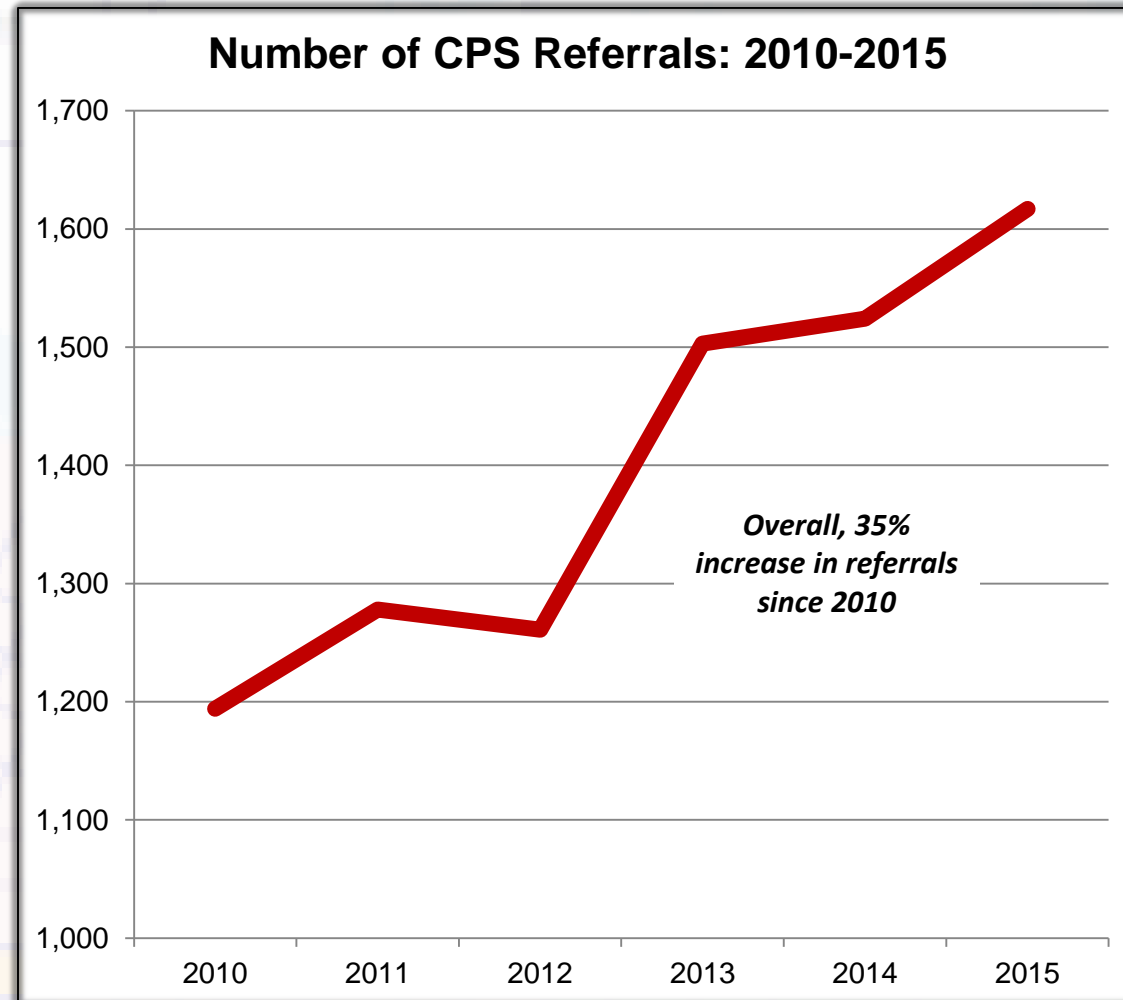


THE URGENCY TO ACT: **FAMILY STABILITY**

A rise in child safety issues



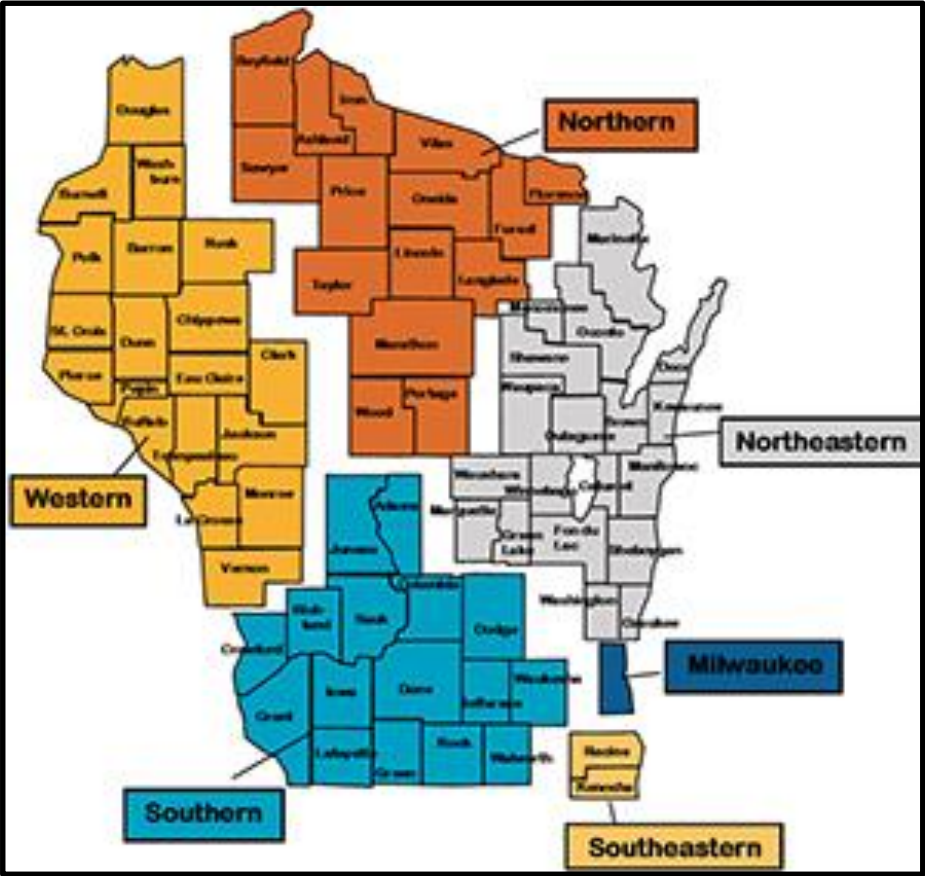
- ***Increase in child mental illness***
- ***Increase in substance exposed children***
- ***Increase in Out of Home Placements***
- ***Overwhelmed Child Welfare System***









Statewide Surge in Children Needing Protection



Increase in CHIPS Cases (2013-16)

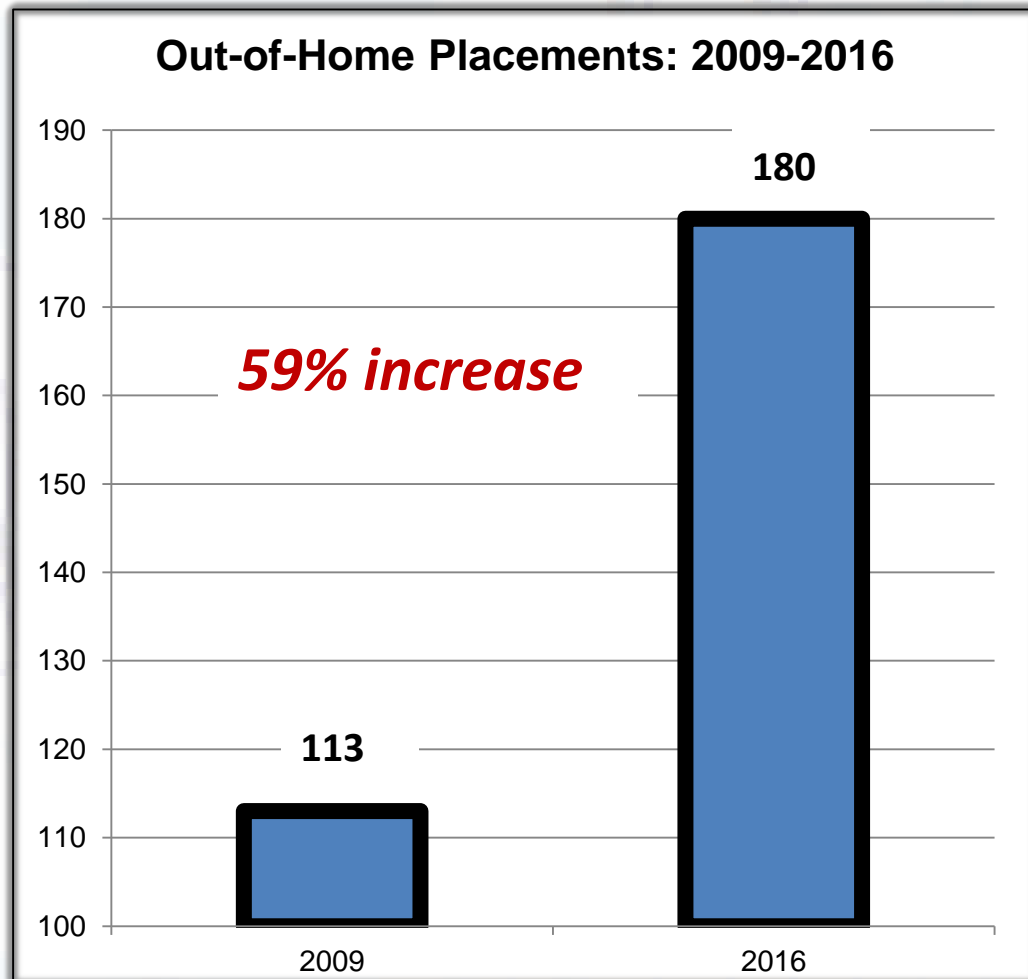


Monroe:	107 %	
Trempealeau:	90 %	
Chippewa:	85 %	
Dunn:	80 %	
Washburn	41 %	
La Crosse	41 %	

Steep Rise in Out-of-Home Placements



La Crosse County



Other Western Region Counties

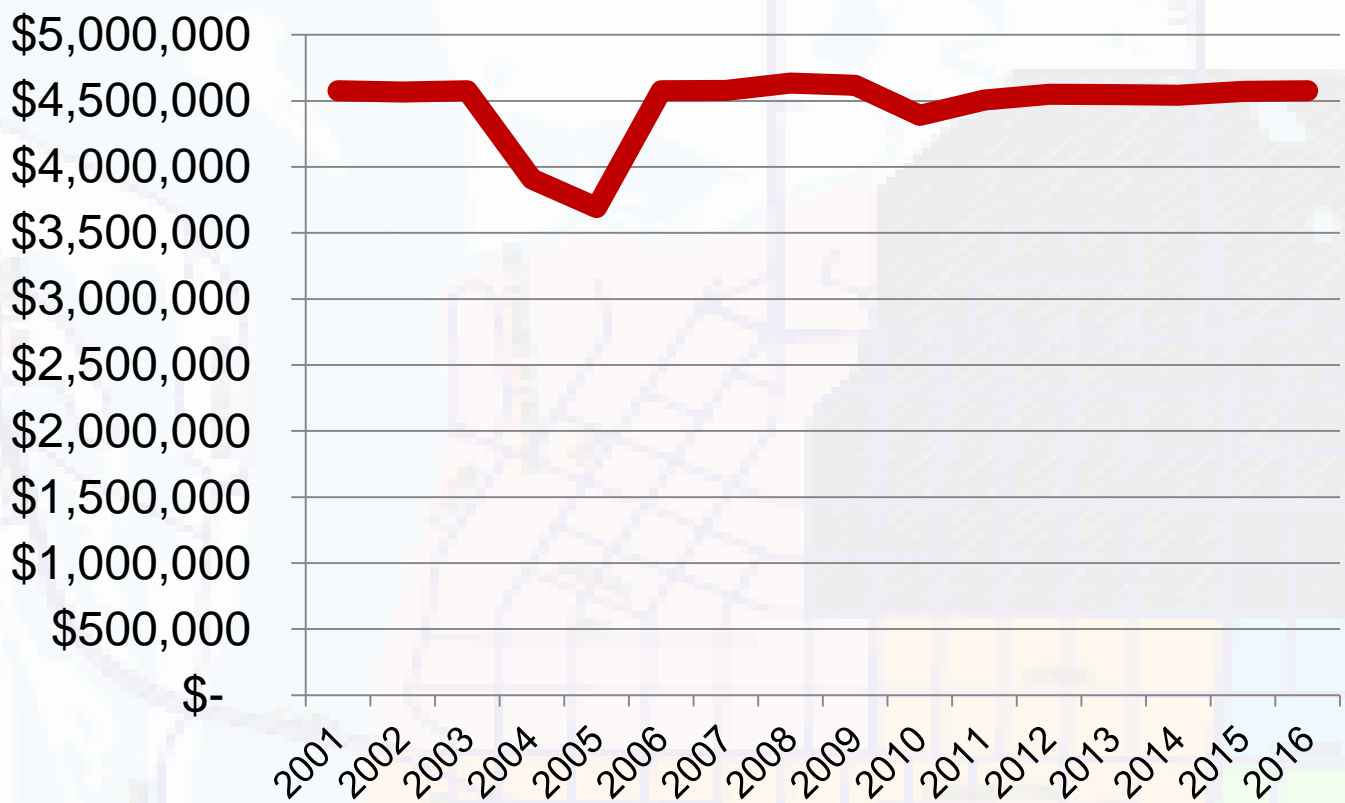
<u>County</u>	<u>Out-of-Home Care Placements</u>		<u>% Change</u>
Trempealeau:	10 (Feb 2015)	to 39 (Aug 2017)	+290 %
Buffalo:	7 (Jul 2016)	to 18 (Jul 2017)	+157 %
Burnett:	<i>specific numbers not provided</i>		+125 %
St. Croix:	21 (Avg 2015)	to 45 (Sept 2017)	+114 %
Clark:	16 (Avg 2013)	to 29 (Avg 2016)	+81 %
Monroe:	35 (Avg 2013)	to 58 (Avg 2017)	+66 %
Taylor:	16 (Jan 2017)	to 25 (Sep 2017)	+56 %
Eau Claire:	121 (Avg 2009)	to 180 (Avg 2016)	+49 %

<u>County</u>	<u># of Children Placed</u>		<u>% Change</u>
Chippewa:	13 (2014)	to 182 (2017 YTD)	+1,300 %

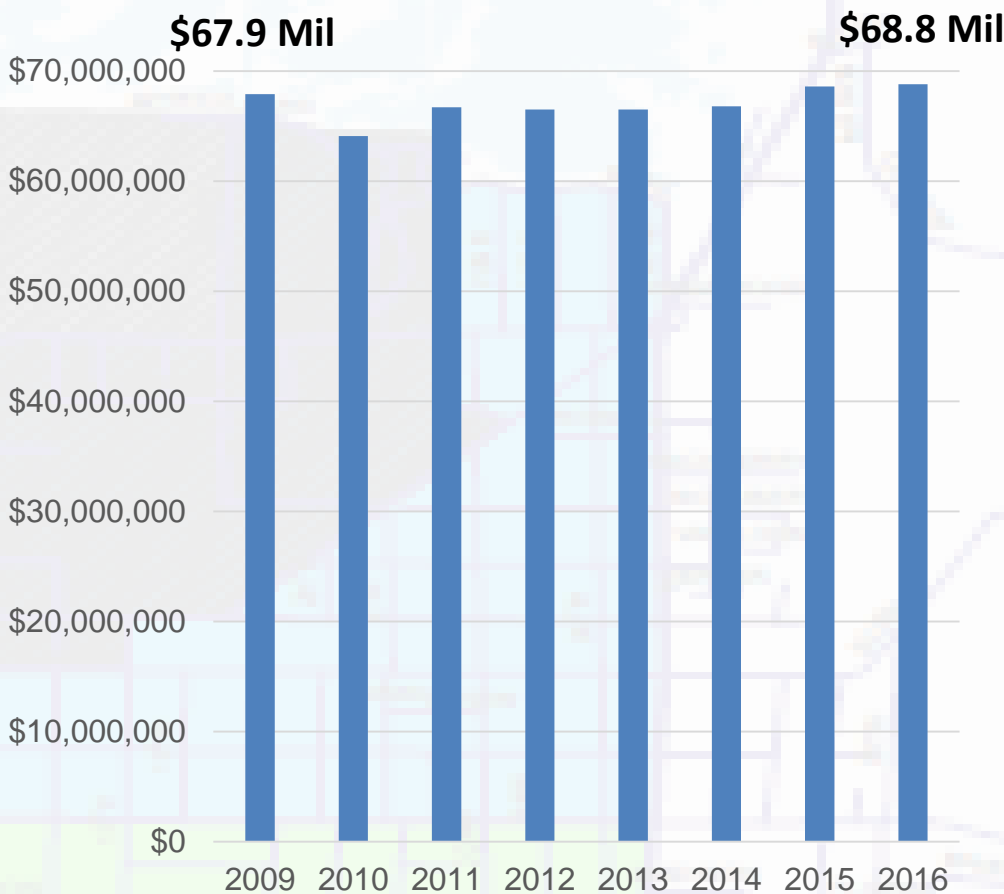
Stagnant Resourcing



**La Crosse County Human Services
Funding from Community Aids
(2001 - 2015)**



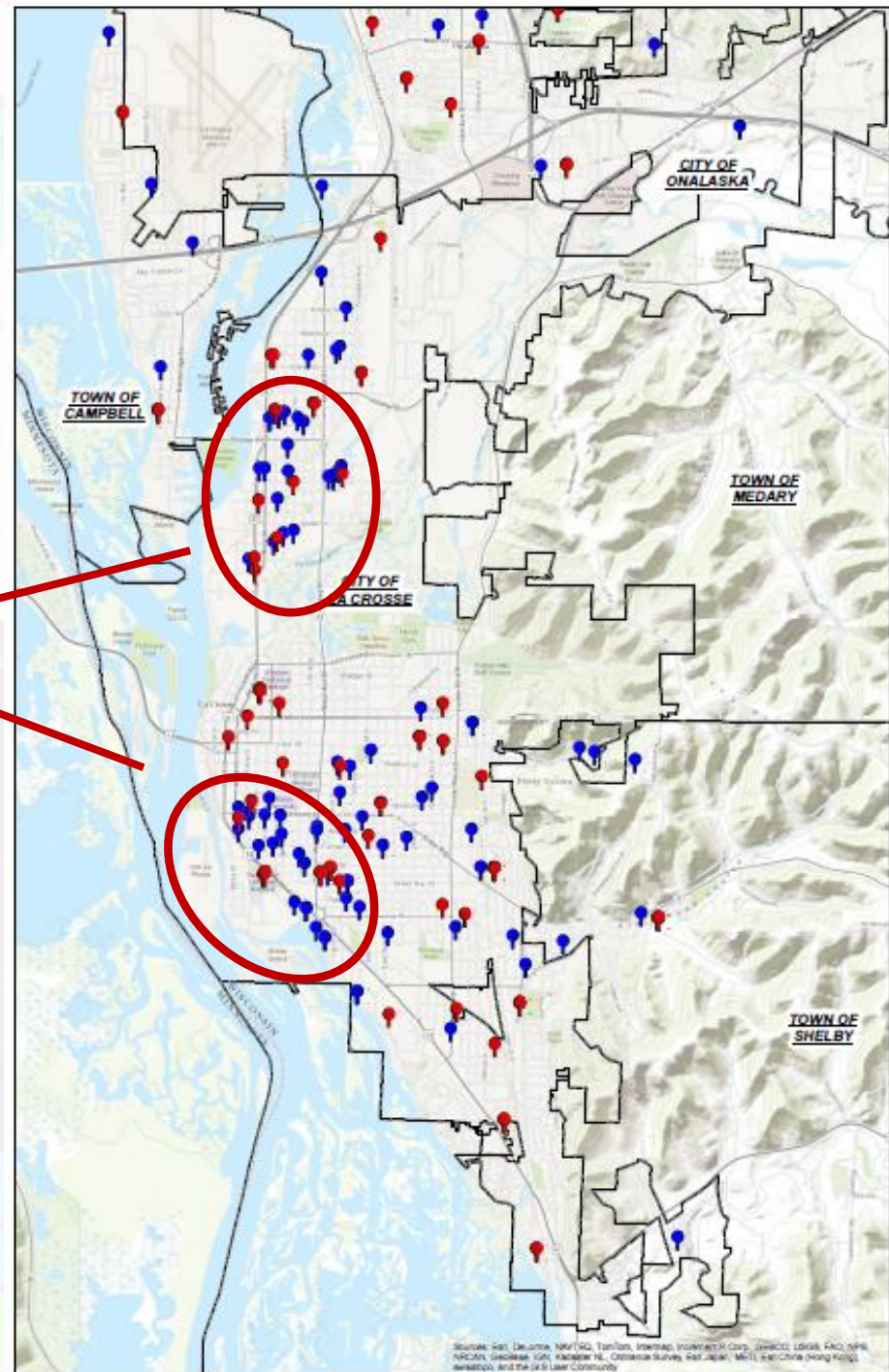
**Children & Family Aids Allocation
(2009-2016)**



City of La Crosse

Juvenile Justice & Child Protective Services Placement Cases

“Hot Spots”



System at a Crossroads

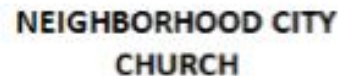


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ods.

A special thank you to our program partners...



**TRINITY LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



City of La Crosse Police Department • Community Collaboration Committee • Family & Children's Center
Joining Forces for Families • Juvenile Justice Arrest and Disproportionate Minority Contact Task Force
La Crosse County Health Department • Lower Northside Depot Neighborhood Association
Powell Poage Hamilton Neighborhood Association • UW-La Crosse



The LAFC Prevention Strategy

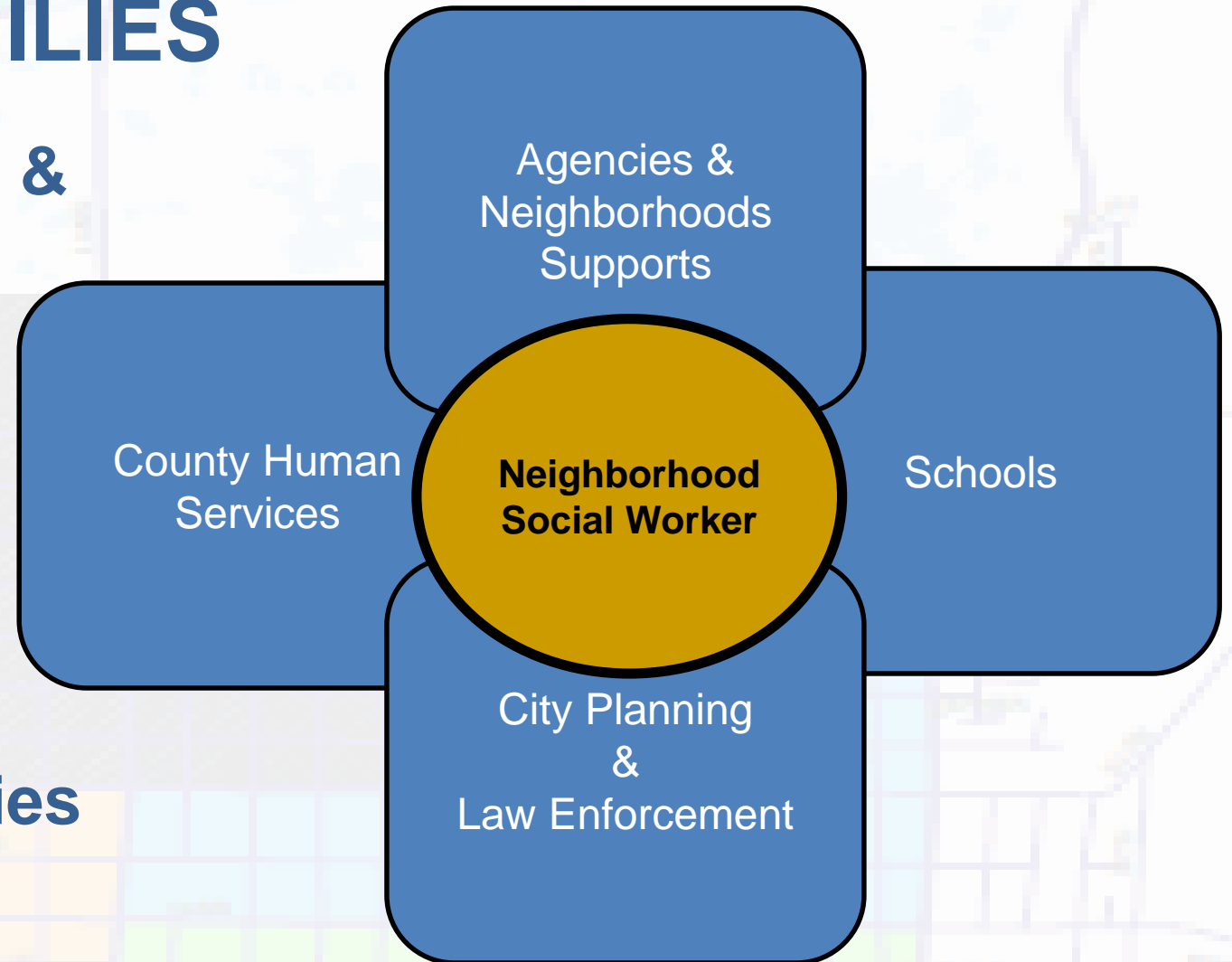
- ***Proactively engage families on the neighborhood level***
- ***Voluntary entry – Driven by family identified needs***
- ***Focus on Relationship building***
- ***Stabilize families before emergency intervention is required***



The LAFC Model

GOAL: STABILIZE FAMILIES

- ***Embedded*** in neighborhoods & schools of focus
- Focused on ***building trust*** & relationships
- Working in a way that's ***flexible*** and unencumbered by bureaucracy
- Highly ***integrated*** with agencies and grassroots partners





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Our Neighborhood Offices



Washburn Corner

- *Mayo Clinic*
- *Neighborhood Resource Officers*



Trinity Lutheran Church

- *Children's Clothes Closet*
- *Community Meal*
- *Food Pantry*

- ***Target neighborhoods are “hot spots” in the community***
- ***Locations are donated by active and engaged stakeholders***
- ***Close proximity to Elementary Schools of focus***



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Our Schools of Focus

A. Schools where Neighborhood Social Workers are “Embedded”

Hamilton Elementary



Northside Elementary



B. Other Schools that may Refer Families of Concern to LAFC

Emerson Elementary



North Woods Elementary





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Community Building and Neighborhood Engagement

- Attend community events
- Presentations, mentoring and teaching
- Resource booths at schools, clubs etc.
- Organize block parties and neighborhood grill outs
- Partner, community and new program development – steering/planning committees
- Mobilize community to address neighborhood issues – Poage Park and Huber Court
- Provide partner consultations





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Resource Cultivation and Development

- **FSPA Apartment**
- **Seven Rivers Properties Apartment**
- **Frances Homes – LAFC Exclusive**
- **Landlord Relationships**
- **Fred's Brake and Alignment**
- **Multiple Grants secured for resource pool**
- **Faith Collaborative – 9 current churches**
- **'The Exchange'**
- **Gundersen Residency Clinic and Employment Opportunities**
- **Gundersen Global Partners – Hamilton Mentoring Program**
- **Donation Coordination**





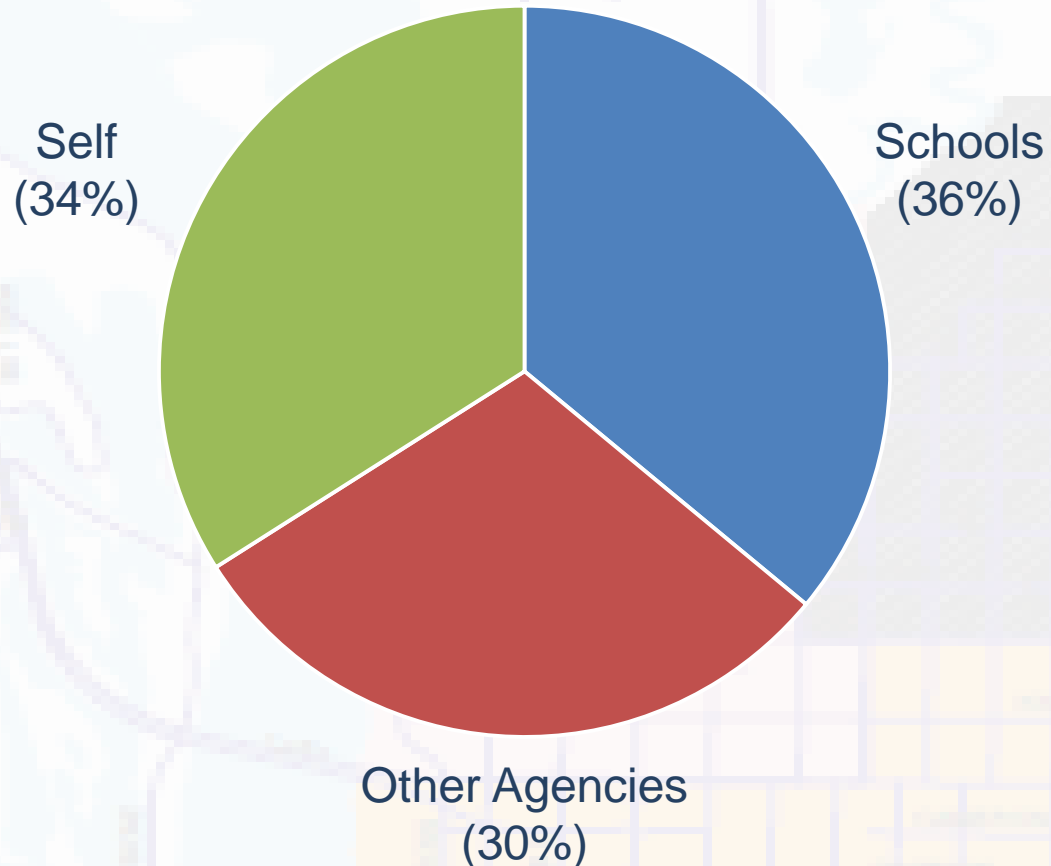
Early Experience



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196 Families Served in 2016

Referral Sources



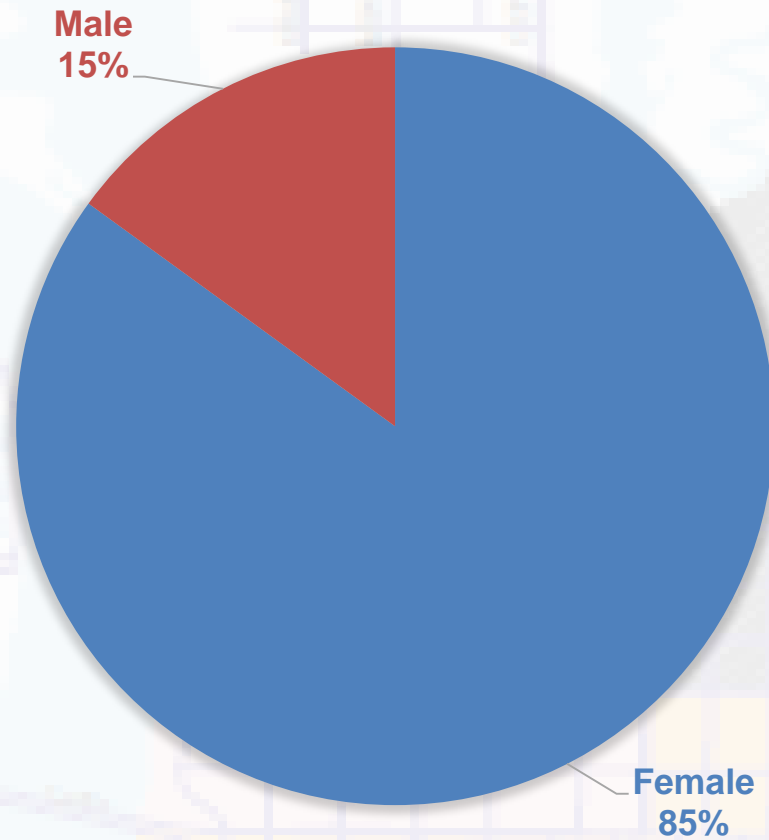
Common Issues Addressed

- Behavioral Health Navigation
- Housing
- Basic Needs Allocation
- Support and Advocating
- Family Stabilization

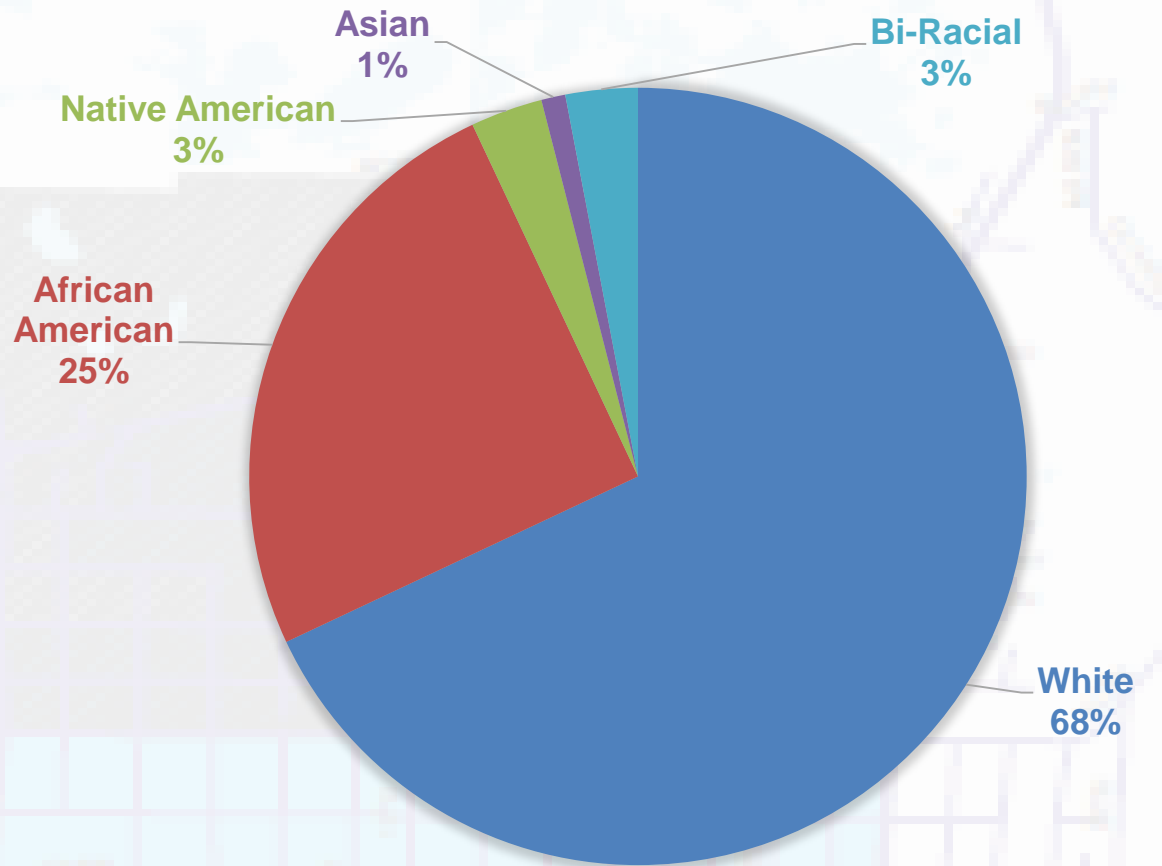


Demographics 2016

Gender



Race





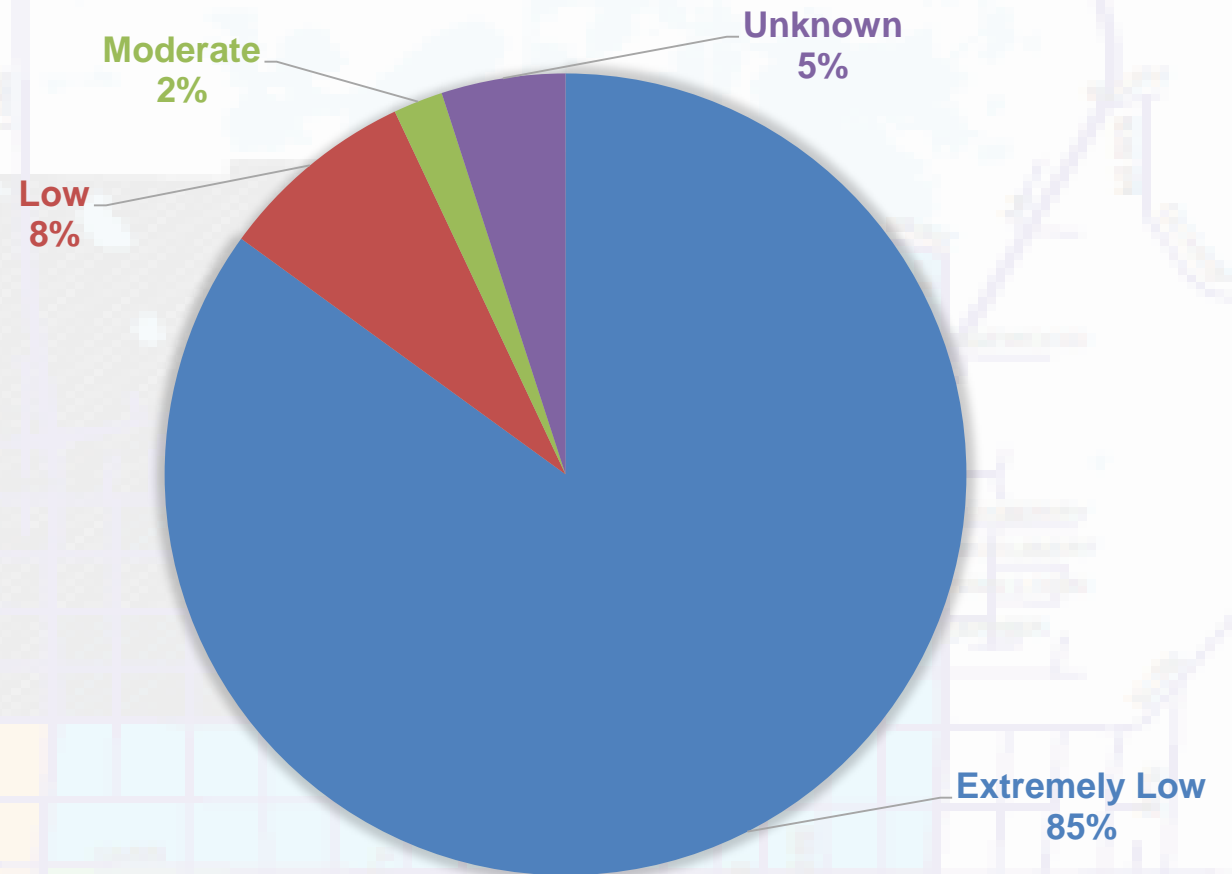
Demographics 2016

Extremely Low Income Bracket

Number of Residents	Income Range
1	\$0 to \$14,250
2	\$0 to \$16,250
3	\$0 to \$20,160
4	\$0 to \$24,300
5	\$0 to \$28,440
6	\$0 to \$32,580
7	\$0 to \$36,730
8	\$0 to \$40,890

Annual Gross Household Income

LAFC Families by Income Bracket

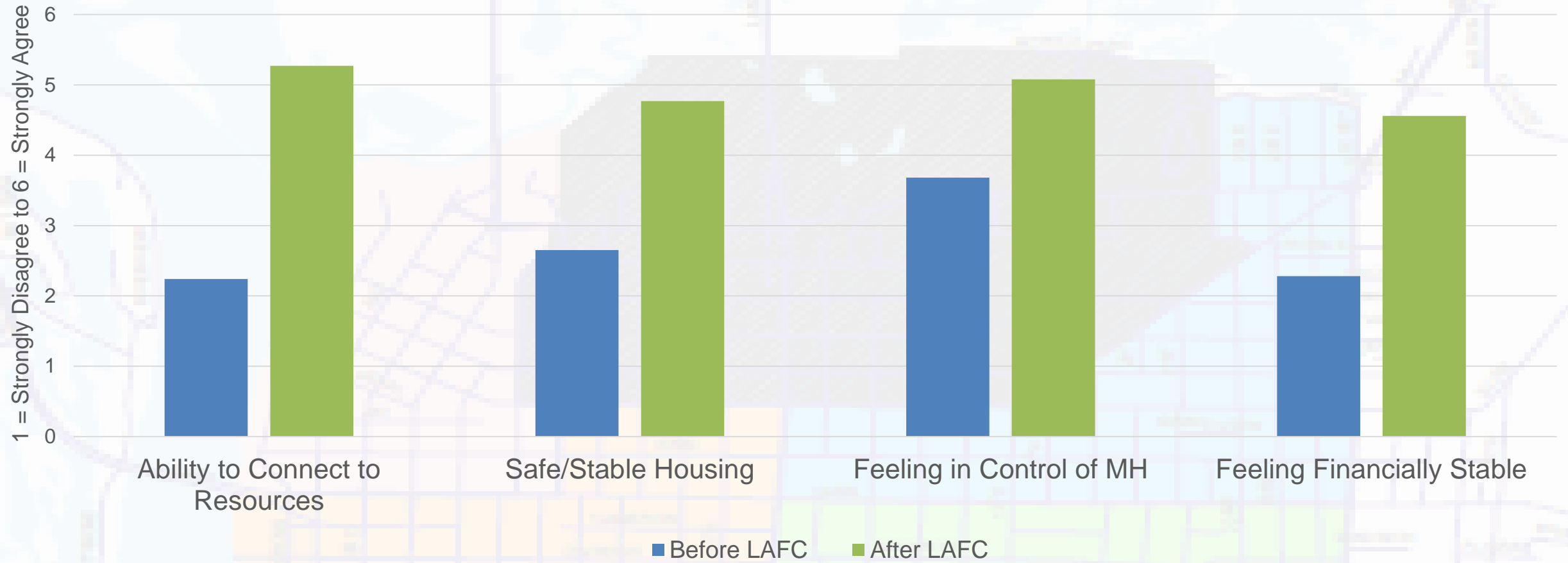




Client Outcomes Survey 2016

60 Surveys distributed to 2016 LAFC Families - Results compiled from 30 total respondents

Before and After LAFC Intervention

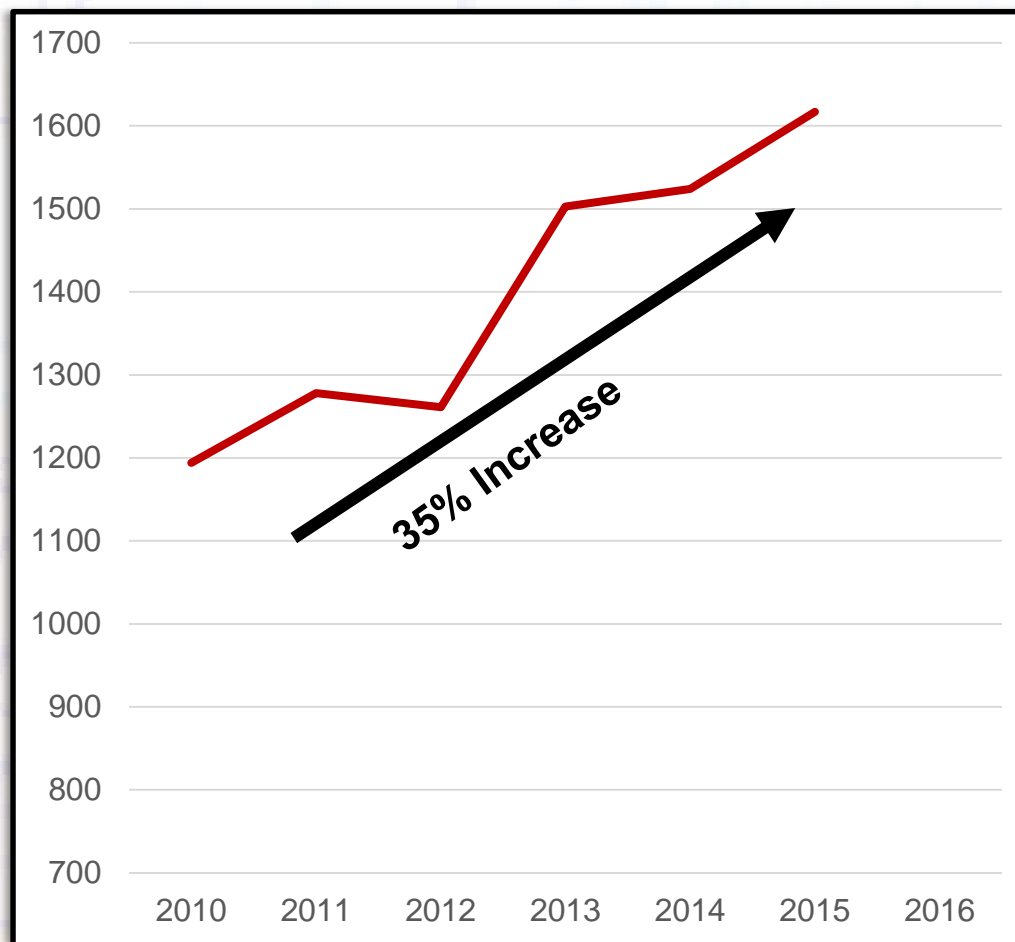




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Changes in CPS Referrals

CPS Referrals: 2010-2015

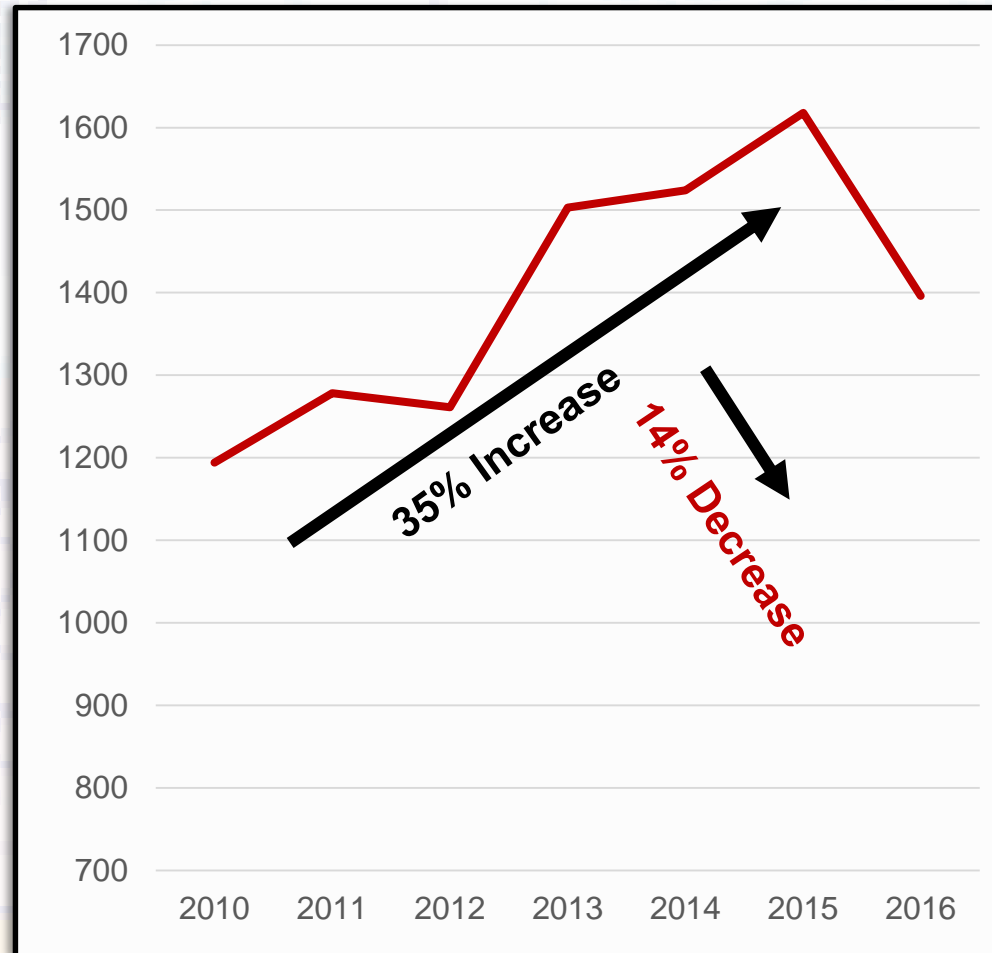


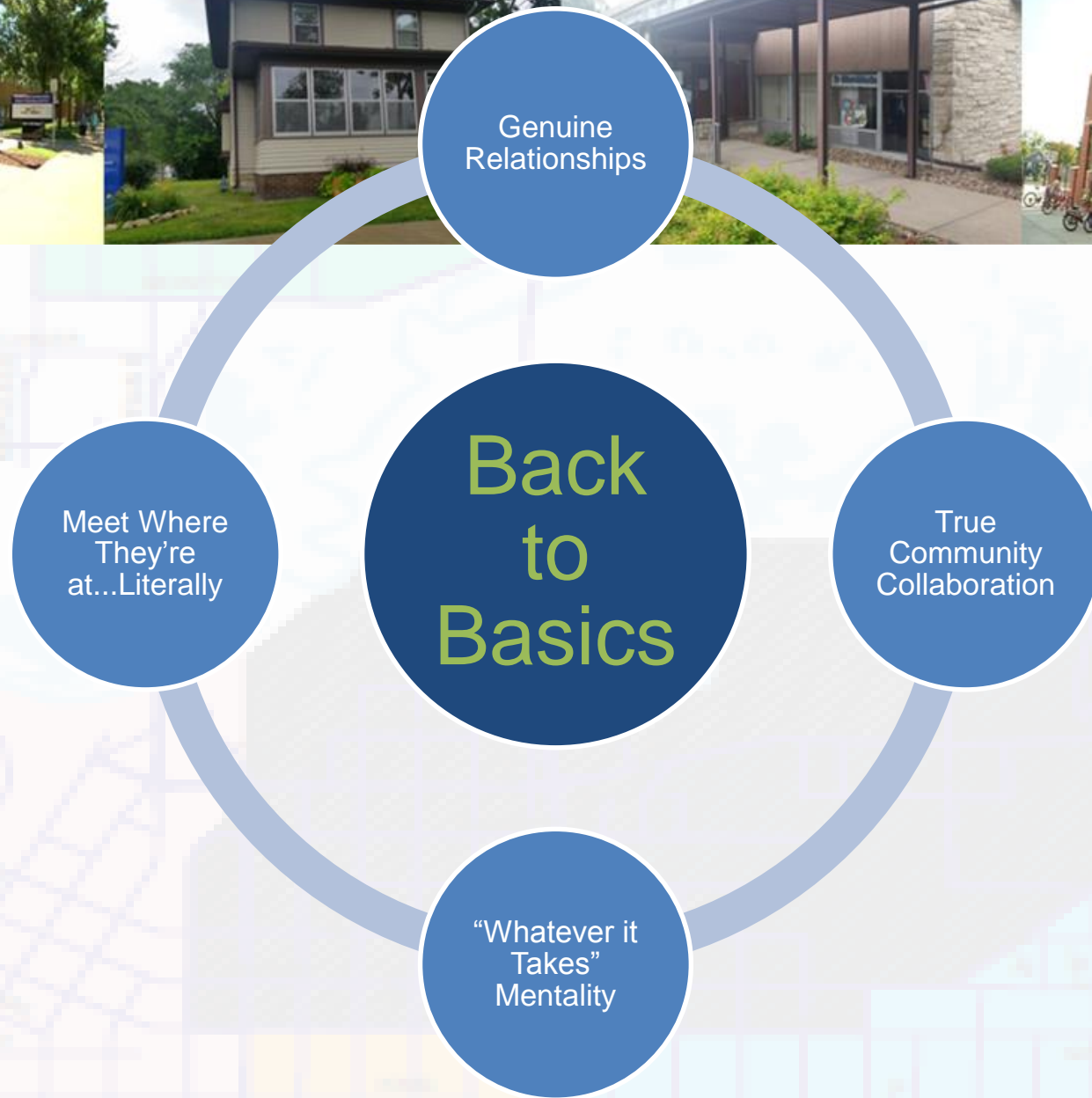


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Changes in CPS Referrals

CPS Referrals: 2010-2016





What Explains LAFC’s Early Success?



Achieving Success with Families

LAFC's Approach to Family Intervention

- *Taking time to build trust & relationships*
- *One on one help in addressing basic needs*
- *Timely & flexible approach*

*Ability to holistically
Leverage Social Work Skills*

Vs.

Current Barriers within Wisconsin's Child Welfare System

- *High caseloads*
- *Burdensome paperwork demands*
- *Less time to address basic needs*

*Often only time to focus on
control of safety factors*

See TED Talks: Hilary Cottam, "Social services are broken. How we can fix them."

https://www.ted.com/talks/hilary_cottam_social_services_are_broken_how_we_can_fix_them



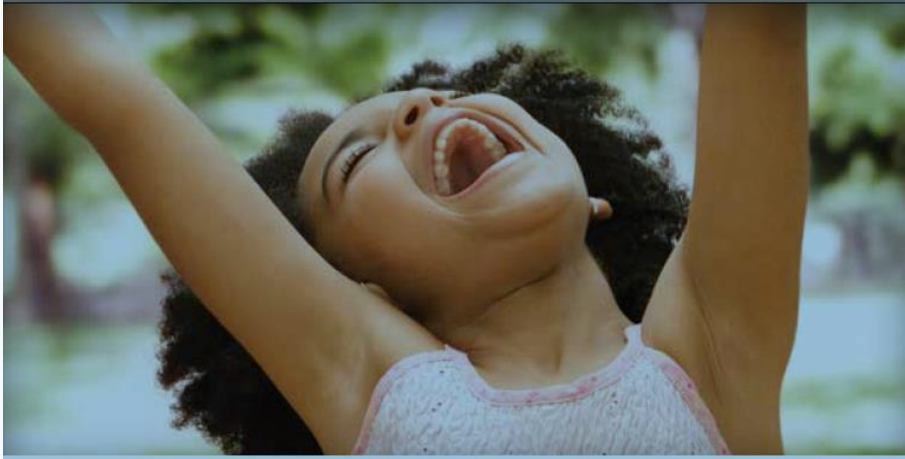
Partner Testimonials

- ***Schools***
- ***Law Enforcement***



safe children | strong families | supportive communities

A DECLARATION *of* HOPE



casey family programs

“At the [neighborhood] level, we can better define and solve our problems. String together enough neighborhoods and you move a county”

***- “A Declaration of Hope”
Casey Family Programs***



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THANK YOU!

***ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT LAFC, INCLUDING LINKS TO
MEDIA COVERAGE & HOW TO DONATE, CAN BE FOUND AT THE
LA CROSSE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT WEBSITE***

[HTTP://WWW.CO.LA-CROSSE.WI.US/HUMANSERVICES/](http://www.co.la-crosse.wi.us/humanservices/)

